



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE BIRD EXPERT  
WINS 1991 CHUCK YEAGER AWARD

A lifetime of pioneering work in the study of birds and their habitat has won U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Chandler S. Robbins the 1991 Chuck Yeager Award, sponsored by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Robbins received the award, along with a \$15,000 grant, from Service Director John Turner during a November 19 ceremony held in Washington, DC.

The Yeager Award, named for the famed aviator, is presented to a wildlife management or research professional who demonstrates exemplary fieldwork on behalf of fish and wildlife populations. Robbins is free to apply the grant to any conservation project he believes worthy of support.

"We at the Fish and Wildlife Service are fortunate to have Chandler Robbins on our team," said Turner. "His career has spanned more than four decades, yet his work with birds continues to set the standard for others to follow. He is a great asset to the Service and to the people and wildlife resources of this country."

(over)

"The Chuck Yeager Award recognizes individuals who make a difference on the ground," explains General Chuck Yeager. "The award honors success in fish and wildlife conservation efforts. Mere bureaucratic service or survivorship won't do it--we want to recognize people who make it work in the field."

Robbins, a 44-year veteran of the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service, is known widely for his studies of birds and development of a nationwide bird population monitoring system. He has co-authored numerous popular field guides and handbooks, and has published a host of scientific works on birds and their habitats. Robbins recently turned his attention to studies concerning the decline of birds that migrate to neotropical areas such as Mexico, the Caribbean, and Cuba.

As part of his latest endeavor, Robbins is working with the Foundation to bring together experts from around the Nation for a workshop to develop a plan to reverse the decline of these forest-dwelling neotropical birds. The workshop, scheduled for December 10-14 in Atlanta, Georgia, will focus on cooperation among Federal, state, and private interests in order to stem this decline.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, headquartered in Washington, DC, is a non-profit organization created by Congress to foster cooperative partnerships for the benefit of the Nation's fish, wildlife, and plant resources. The Foundation, which receives funds from Congress to match non-Federal donations, supports a wide variety of wildlife conservation projects in the United States and other countries.